

PERSI hosted Slovaks to teach pension basics

During the month of April, PERSI hosted two representatives from the country of Slovakia to teach them how to administer a major pension plan.

Slovakia recently passed a pension reform law that seeks to introduce a mandatory fully-funded pension plan in early 2002. This law will expand the pension options for workers from the sole government run unfunded defined benefit scheme to a multi-pillar pension environment.

Eva Havelkova, Advisor to Deputy Prime Minister on Economic Affairs, Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, and Marek Lendacky, Macroeconomic Analyst, Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family spent the month

learning all aspects of the pension system from portfolio investment strategies to member communications.

What is missing in Slovakia and other countries undertaking major reforms of this kind are the experience and knowledge on how to regulate and manage pension plans effectively and efficiently.

Eva and Marek also got to enjoy a little bit of Idaho hospitality as they skied Bogus Basin, shopped at the mall, saw a concert at the Big Easy and took a road trip to Twin Falls.

We hope PERSI has made a valuable contribution to Slovakia's pension reform by showing them how it's done here in Idaho!

Punctuation not needed in electronic reporting

If you're reporting electronically, we'd like to save your tired fingers from a few extra keystrokes.

Please avoid using commas and periods when entering data, particularly in addresses. For example, you should not add a comma after a city name in an address or it will come out as follows: Boise,, ID 88888

Our computer system, Galena, automatically enters commas if needed so that you don't have to.

For more tips and information on entering data, see the February 2002 issue of *News to Use*.

Members can view their data on line

PERSI members can look up their personal account information on our web at <https://www.persifms.com/SEC/wiz01.asp>

Members must enter their Social Security number, birthdate and name to enter the program. After clicking through four more screens they will see their individual data.

We're working on a shorter way to do this, but for now, this is a good way to see the info and try the planning calculator too!

What's _____ ING?

You've probably seen their commercials on TV -- the ones where people are trying to figure out what the _____ING signs mean. Well, we can now answer that for you. ING is a financial services company. In fact, it is the new name for what used to be Aetna. How do we know this? Well, because one of the investment options in the PERSI Choice Plan was Aetna's Small Company I Fund, which is now ING's Small Company I Fund.

Choice participation up

Voluntary participation in the PERSI Choice Plan is on the rise. In February alone, participation rose from 3,798 to 4,354 contributors.

These savvy individuals realize the importance of saving on their own for retirement. Employees wishing to follow their lead may receive more information by calling toll-free 1-866-ID-PERSI or by visiting www.persi.state.id.us/choice.htm

School districts: Here's how to do your summer RS-109's

The end of the school year is almost here.

If you have employees who are not paid on a 12-month basis and do not work during the summer, you need to submit an RS-109 Notice of Separation for each of these people.

School district personnel who receive their salary over 12 months may leave employment in May or June, but they are paid through the end of August - the contract end date. This date is usually August 31, but may be a few days earlier depending on an individual district's contract end dates. Please use the specific contract end date for your district.

PERSI cannot pay separation or retirement benefits to these employees until they are out of pay status, even if they haven't actually worked since May or June. This is because teachers on 12-month contracts are still considered to be active members during the summer, earning membership credit. Teachers on 9-month contracts receive 9 months of service.

On the 109, the termination date should be August 31 if the member is paid through August.

Employee Returning to Work

If the employee will be returning to work, use item #10 *Leave of Absence Without Pay* to indicate the last day on the job, and #11 *Return from Leave of Absence* to indicate the

first day of work in August or September (not the first pay date).

Employee Retiring

A teacher may retire in May or June if their contract is paid off early, but if they do so, they will not receive service credits for the time they missed between their retirement date and their contract end date (usually August 31).

If an employee does retire in May or June with a contract payoff, the Termination Date or Contract End Date is the last actual date in May or June on the job.

If they are retiring and are being paid through the end of August, their Termination Date or Contract End Date is the last day in pay status or last day paid through (usually August 31).

Employee Terminating

If the employee is *terminating* and not returning to work, or would like a separation benefit, indicate the last physical day on the job unless the member is being paid through August. If the employee is being paid through August, the termination date is that specific date in August after which they will no longer be paid.

On the RS-109, use item #1 *Resignation* if the employee is quitting, use #15 *Other* if the employee has been fired or the job has been eliminated. If you know that the employee is moving to

another agency, please enter this in #17 *Remarks*.

Remember, employees do NOT have to take a separation benefit if they are terminating. They may leave their money in PERSI for three years if not vested, or until retirement if they are vested.

Call if You Have Questions

We know this is confusing, so if you need more information, call Lenna Strohmeier at 334-2451 or 1-800-451-8228 ext. 295, or e-mail her at lstrohme@persi.state.id.us. She will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

There are also some instructions on completing 109's in the October 1995 and August 1997 issues of *News to Use* available on-line at www.persi.state.id.us under *Employer Information, News to Use*. Hardcopy versions of all past issues of *News to Use* are also available by calling Betsy Griffith at 334-2451 or 1-800-451-8228 ext. 297 or by e-mailing bgriffit@persi.state.id.us.

All past issues of *News to Use*, and lots of other items for employers, are available on-line at www.persi.state.id.us

Look under the **Employer Information** button!